

minutes, 146 lives were lost, including sixty-two people who died by jumping or falling from the ninth floor.

The International Ladies Garments Workers, the National Women's Trade Union League, and other unions didn't just mourn the victims—they organized. The day after the fire, 15,000 shirtwaist workers demonstrated in support for a 52-hour week and a 20 percent pay raise. On Sunday, thousands gathered at the Metropolitan Opera House and passed a resolution calling for a Bureau of Fire Prevention and a permanent citizens' committee to push for labor reforms. Soon after, Governor Al Smith acted to create the Factory Investigating Commission, chaired by Robert Wagner, who would become a U.S. Senator and the sponsor of the National Labor Relations Act. One of its key investigator staffers was Frances Perkins, who became Secretary of Labor.

The impetus for reform came from the workers themselves. Their activism resulted in the passage of major worker protections not just new fire safety laws but laws against 7-day work weeks and child labor. The Triangle tragedy resulted in more workers having the right to union representation, collective bargaining rights, and a voice at work.

In 1961, on the 50th anniversary of the Triangle fire, ILGWU President David Dubinsky attended the memorial service and said, "We want a fitting memorial to the martyrs we honor today. No better one can be found than to increase the respect for and the safety of workers."

100 years later, those words continue to ring true. Today, we confront a coordinated effort to roll back the hard fought gains that were won not just because of the horrific nature of the tragedy that occurred but because of the organizing power of unions, workers and their supporters. Just as the Triangle Fire spurred people into action, the anti-working family agenda of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has mobilized millions. The message is clear: we will not go back to the days when workers had no voice, no dignity and no safety. We will not go back.

#### TO RECOGNIZE THE 21ST ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Youth Football League and to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports teaches our youth many lessons that will serve them well throughout life. These invaluable lessons include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and maybe most importantly, the work ethic instilled by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal. Organized youth sports also contributes to our society, studies have shown a correlation between participation in sporting activities and doing well in school. Some studies indicate that reduction in

gang activity can be partially attributed to refocusing at-risk youth into organized, supervised activities such as youth sports.

I applaud the Fairfax County Youth Football League for the opportunities that they provide to all of our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being recognized at the 21st Annual Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame:

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2011 Inductees: Will Montgomery (NFL Washington Redskins, Virginia Polytechnic University, Centreville High School, Southwestern Youth Association), Bill Yoast (Hammond High School, T. C. Williams High School), George Casey (Vienna Youth Incorporated).

Football Official of the Year—Youth Sports: Arnold Palmer (Fairfax County Football Officials Association).

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Betty Powell (Fairfax County Youth Football League).

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Lee Ann Pender (Director, Office of Administrative Services, Fairfax County Public Schools).

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: William Barry Thompson, III (Fairfax Police Youth Club).

FCFHF Awards—\$1,500 Scholarships: Lisa Kinston (West Potomac High School—Cheerleading), Andrew Weidinger (Lake Braddock High School—Football), Scotty Nicoll (Westfield High School—Football), John "JP" Theodorakos (Herndon High School—Football).

High School Players of the Year: Marcus Harris (Stone Bridge High School), Anthony Taylor (Washington-Lee High School), Michael Nebrich (Lake Braddock High School), Jared Velasquez (Robinson High School), Kevin Hogan (Gonzaga High School), Dominique Terrell (At Large—Osborn High School).

High School Coaches of the Year: Mickey Thompson (Division V—Stone Bridge High School), Mark Cox (Division VI—Battlefield High School).

Youth Players of the Year—Youth Sports: Kyle Hamrock (Braddock Road Youth Club), Jelani Shakir (Ft. Belvoir Youth Football), Zachary Braskamp (Reston Youth Football), Kyle Phox (Springfield Youth Club), Guy Myers (Manassas Youth Football), Brandon Lessard (McLean Youth Football), Garrett Snedeker (Chantilly Youth Association), Benjamin Davenport (Lee-Franconia Football), Devon Patterson (Gainesville/Haymarket Football), Jack Caldwell (Braddock Road Youth Club), David Im (Herndon Optimist Club), Glenn Rushing (Ft. Hunt Youth Football), Sean Fitzgerald (Vienna Youth Inc.), Christian Abenes (Ft. Belvoir Youth Football), Nick Donlon (Southwestern Youth Association), Hayden Burke (South County Athletic Association).

Coaches of the Year—Youth Sports: David Curtis (Alexandria Youth Football), Todd Casey (Vienna Youth Inc.), James Passmore (Herndon Optimist Club), Mike Anderson (Fairfax Police Youth Club).

Cheerleaders of the Year: KC Buckley (Vienna Youth Inc.), Annie Cowman (Vienna Youth Inc.), Tristen Davenport (Gainesville/Haymarket Football), Meghan Henry (Herndon Optimist Club), Kathleen Winkert (Dulles South Youth Sports).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Fairfax County Youth Football League as well as those students,

coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2011 Hall of Fame celebration.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARO KECHICHIAN 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2011

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March.

Today, I rise to commend Maro Kechichian of Burbank, whose tireless efforts have benefited her community and beyond. Ms. Kechichian was born and raised in Lebanon, where she received her early education and simultaneously became an active member of the Zavarian Student Association. With a passion for learning, Maro pursued a higher education, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Armenian Literature from St. Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon. Prior to moving to the United States, Maro taught at Aksor Kassardjian, an Armenian school in a predominantly Armenian suburb of Beirut. She proved to be a valuable asset to the school, and was promoted to Director—a position she held for eight years.

Maro immigrated to the United States in 1984 and joined Homenetmen's Los Angeles Chapter, where she is an active member. She has served as a board member of Homenetmen Western Regional Executive Committee as a secretary for six terms. As a professional, she is a trusted team member who helps organize regional and international events, including the renowned annual Navasartian Games of Southern California.

Ms. Kechichian is a dedicated participant in all her endeavors and she brings a dynamic energy to all her activities. Maro has been elected as a Regional Executive member for Homenetmen numerous times. Her expertise with issues related to Homenetmen leads her to take frequent part in its Central meetings. These meetings take place every four years, and allow Homenetmen leaders from around the world to gather and plan upcoming nationwide activities. It is also noteworthy that Maro was a reporter for Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper for 20 years, and covered news from Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 1990, Maro was appointed to a special project aimed at establishing a Homenetmen region in Armenia. She stayed in Armenia for three months and was solely committed to this effort. Ever since then, Maro not only continues supporting the region she visited, but also extends a helping hand to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Currently, Maro serves as an Executive Secretary at the Armenian Relief Society, ARS, of the Western Region, and is an advisor for Homenetmen's Los Angeles Chapter. She is also an active volunteer, and spends numerous hours helping Armenian Relief Society's Araz chapter and various fundraising committees.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of the 29th Congressional

District, Maro Kechichian, for her exceptional service to the community.

IN HONOR OF 2011 BRAIN  
AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Brain Awareness Week and the benefits of this informative week in educating students on brain science in my congressional district and across the country. During Brain Awareness Week, which is held March 14–20, neuroscientists around the globe educate K–12 students, senior citizens and the public at large on the wonders of the human brain. These activities include tours of neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions and classroom discussions on the elements of the human brain.

In my congressional district, neuroscientists at Washington University recognized Brain Awareness Week during their annual NeuroDay on March 5. Nearly 5,000 of my constituents walked through the St. Louis Science Center to learn about brain research and treatments in the area. The daylong event included exhibits called Hands-on Human Brains, The Buzz about the Electric Dish, Spying Tips from Horseshoe Crabs, The Teenage Brain on Prism Goggles, and The 6th Sense.

Today, in recognition of Brain Awareness Week, I would like to highlight a devastating neurological condition that affects millions of Americans: Multiple Sclerosis, MS. As a co-chair of the Congressional Multiple Sclerosis caucus, I understand firsthand how this devastating and chronic disease can rob people of their ability to walk, talk, or even tie their shoes. Today, MS is the most common central nervous system disease among young adults after epilepsy and is a lifetime ailment of unknown origin that affects more than 400,000 Americans. MS is diagnosed mainly in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, with 2 of 3 cases occurring in women. Although a cause has yet to be found, MS is thought to be an autoimmune disease in which the body's natural defenses react against the myelin and nerve fibers in the central nervous system as though they were foreign tissue.

Mr. Speaker, both genetic and environmental factors are probably involved in the cause. Previous studies had suggested that MS susceptibility peaked before the age of 15; more recent, larger studies suggest that there is no exact age cutoff. Thanks to research conducted through the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and the National Science Foundation—our premier scientific enterprises—which continue to provide hope to the 50 million Americans who suffer from neurological disorders annually. For example, the NIH is leading the way to promising new treatments for MS. One NIH-funded study showed that so-called “progenitor” cells in the brain might be used to help regenerate areas of the brain that have lost myelin.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the contributions that scientists who study the brain and nervous system are making to understanding more about the onset of MS and the

innovation of potential treatments that can more effectively ease the pain and suffering of individuals who grapple with this crippling illness during the prime of their lives.

CONGRATULATING PARKVIEW  
HIGH SCHOOL AND SIMPSON EL-  
EMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. ROB WOODALL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I proudly congratulate two schools from my district, Parkview High School and Simpson Elementary School, for having earned the prestigious 2011 Georgia School of Excellence Award.

The Georgia School of Excellence award is an annual honor awarded by the Georgia School Superintendent to the schools showing the greatest improvement or highest achievement across the state. Parkview High School and Simpson Elementary, both in Gwinnett County, tied as the 7th District school showing the highest achievement as measured by being in the top ten percent in reading and mathematics assessment scores. Each of the schools will receive a grant from Georgia Natural Gas.

I am extremely proud of the work being done at both of these schools and want to recognize Principal David Smith of Parkview High School and Principal Bron Gayna Schmit of Simpson Elementary School and their hard-working faculty and staff for their excellence in providing each and every student with a superior education and enabling each student to meet his or her full potential.

These two schools are in the Gwinnett County School District, a national leader in education and winner of the 2010 Broad Prize for Public Education, an award a competitive, nationwide award given to one school district each year that exemplifies superior overall student and administrative performance.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUT  
TROOP 1818 AND CUB SCOUT  
PACK 1818

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pack 1818 and Troop 1818, the Jewish Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop that are based in my neighborhood in Mantua in Fairfax. Cub Scout Pack 1818 now boasts 34 boys ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 5. Chartered by the Olam Tikvah Men's Club since 2000, Pack 1818 provides an opportunity for these boys to take in a variety of sports, crafts, and outdoor activities, like hiking and camping.

This year, Tiger Cubs include: Jacob Boyett, Elijah Fischer, Benjamin Golden, Ari Pearlstein, Nathan Rothberg, Isaac Saiger, and Matthew Wurmser. Wolf Cubs include Jacob Book, Nathan Chernys, Ben Engler, Daniel Fertel, Alex Frame, Zach Grossman, Sebastian Jones, Aidan Jupiter, Jacob Hemmerdinger, Rueben Hemmerdinger, Sol-

omon Hutchins, Ben Neifeld, and Zachary Shmargal-Ellison. Bear Cubs include Mitchell Akawie, Samuel Goldberg, Jared Johnson, Michael Krasovsky, Ilan Nabatkhorian, Lars Rosen, and Jacob Rutzick. First year Webelos include Solomon Jones while second year Webelos include Joshua Ackerman, Kenny Book, David Chernys, Daniel Dorlester, Jordan Lamar, and Aaron Shurberg.

I am especially pleased to note that these last six boys—the second year Webelos—will transition to Boy Scouts during a ceremony this evening. Each of those boys has earned the Arrow of Light award.

After they become Boy Scouts, the number of Boys in Troop 1818 will equal 18, which in Jewish tradition corresponds to Life. Troop 1818, which is only three years old, has emerged as an important force for so many boys' lives. Troop 1818 provides opportunities to build lifelong skills and values, and make lasting friendships through weekly activities and a variety of outdoor programs. The boys have a chance to earn merit badges in such diverse areas as engineering, camping, orienteering, nuclear science, and first aid. This past year, boys from Troop 1818 got to learn CPR, build and sleep in a snow igloo, and attend the 100th anniversary National Jamboree with Scouts from around the country and world.

Troop 1818 currently includes Benjy Ackerman, Max Chernys, Jamie Frame, Josh Hone, Casey Lamar, Ezra Lapidus, Levi Meerovich, Josh Rutzick, Sam Rutzick, Ezra Postelnek, Yosef Postelnek, and Zach Watts. These boys have made significant accomplishments over the past year—earning merit badges and multiple rank advancements—which they will receive at their semi-annual Court of Honor this weekend.

Finally, I'd like to also recognize Robert Book, who founded Troop 1818 and current serves as Committee Chair for Pack 1818. An Eagle Scout himself, Robert is being recognized this weekend for his accomplishments by being presented with the Shofar Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in congratulating these scouts and also in thanking the troop leaders, parents and families for their dedication to our youth.

A TRIBUTE TO ANITA MARTIN,  
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2011

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March.

I stand today to pay tribute to Anita Martin of Altadena, who for many years, has spent an extraordinary amount of time and energy helping our nation's veterans. Every other week, Anita and her husband of 23 years, Walter, volunteer at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System's West LA Domiciliary. They assist veterans with the necessary paperwork for benefits claims, advocate for their health care, help them find shelter, lend a